

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//PA-PO// MSG, DTG 052323Z JAN 04

UNCLASSIFIED//

SUBJECT: Supplemental Public Affairs Guidance (PAG) - Transformation through Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC 2005)

Note for addressees -- please retransmit to your subordinate commands.

1. REFERENCES. Ref. A: SECDEF MSG, DTG 0311202320Z, Subj: Public Affairs Guidance (PAG) - Transformation through Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC 2005); Ref. B: P.L. 101-510, as amended; Ref. C: Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) memo on transformation through BRAC, 15 Nov 02. Ref. A is DoD PAG on BRAC 2005; Ref. B. is the legislation authorizing a BRAC round in 2005. Ref C. is SECDEF's initial directions on BRAC 2005.

2. This message supplements the PAG for BRAC 2005 (Ref A). Ref. A is still in effect in its totality.

3. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND: As a part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 that authorized DoD to pursue one BRAC round in 2005, DoD will issue an initial data call on 5 Jan 04.

4. PUBLIC AFFAIRS POSTURE: Active, however no discussion of the data call will be made until after OASD(PA) announcement on 6 Jan 04. Base Realignments And Closures are contentious and controversial. Commanders and their public affairs officers must be prepared to respond to questions and objectively communicate the details of the BRAC process to the public.

5. OASD(PA) is scheduled to release the following statement on 6 Jan 04: (QUOTE) Today, the Department of Defense has requested commanders of installations in the United States, territories and possessions to gather information about their installations as part of the 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness.

Formal data calls are one of the ways the department satisfies its statutory obligations to treat all military installations equally and to make its closure and realignment recommendations based solely upon certified data.

The participation of an installation in the data call does not indicate the department is specifically considering the installation for closure or realignment. All installations will participate in these calls. While none of the questions or data associated with the questions will be released to the public prior to the department's recommendations being forwarded to the independent Defense

Base Closure and Realignment Commission, all questions and data will be publicly available once the Commission receives them.

This data call is only one of many steps in the BRAC process. There will be additional data calls as necessary.

In a related action, the department published Draft Selection Criteria in the Dec. 23, 2003, Federal Register for public comment. The department will use the criteria as part of its evaluation process. Comments are due not later than January 28, 2004. The department's list of base closure and realignment recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC Commission no later than May 16, 2005, as required by the legislation that authorized the 2005 round.

General information on the DoD's BRAC process is available online at: <http://www.dod.mil/brac/>. (END QUOTE)

6. Q&As: The following Q&As are provided for response to query only and are additive to those found in Ref. A. Questions that cannot be answered within the scope of this guidance will be taken without comment and forwarded with proposed answers to OASD(PA).

Q1: Why is the Department of Defense conducting BRAC data calls?

A1: The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended, requires that all realignment and closure recommendations be based on certified information. Although the Department already has a significant amount of data on file, it conducts specific data calls to obtain fresh, certified data for use during the BRAC analysis. This approach ensures that the Department collects and uses the most currently available data and, in so doing, ensures all bases are treated equally throughout the comprehensive BRAC analysis.

Q2: When will the public be able to see the data call(s) responses?

A2: All data call responses and resulting recommendations will be made available to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission not later than May 16, 2005. At that time, this information will be available for all interested parties. In fact, the Commission will solicit responses and inputs regarding the Department's BRAC recommendations from communities, states, and others as it holds public hearings throughout their review process.

Q3: Will the public be allowed to review the data call responses before they are used for analyses?

A3: No. Prior to release from the Secretary of Defense to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission the data call responses are considered pre-decisional and internal to the Department's BRAC analysis process.

Q4: How can the public make an input to a data call?

A4: There are no plans to seek public input to data calls. The Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended, requires that all realignment and closure recommendations be based on certified information. Because this strictly controlled, comprehensive and auditable certification process is internal to the Department of Defense, information obtained from the general public would not be certified and, therefore, not appropriate for inclusion within the Department's BRAC analyses.

Q5: Will the public be able to participate in the BRAC process after the selection criteria are finalized?

A5: The public will have an opportunity to participate in the BRAC 2005 process once the Secretary of Defense provides his recommendations for base closures and realignments to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission not later than May 16, 2005. Prior to this time, the BRAC process is a closed, internal process with strict access controls. After this time, the Commission will hold hearings throughout the country to solicit public input on the Department's recommendations. This public participation has worked well during the previous BRAC rounds and helps ensure the overall BRAC process is as fair as possible.

Q6: How many data calls will be used to support the BRAC 2005 process?

A6: There is no set number of data collection efforts. The Department will issue as many data calls as needed to adequately and fairly evaluate all military installations.

Q7: When will the Department issue BRAC 2005 data calls?

A7: The Department will issue data calls as needed to support the overall BRAC 2005 analytical process. The first data call was issued on January 5, 2004. Additional data calls will be issued as needed to conduct the comprehensive analysis required during the BRAC process.

7. ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS:

7.1. Goal of BRAC is transformation -- reconfiguring current infrastructure and creating joint organizational and basing solutions so that operational capacity maximizes war-fighting capability, efficiency, and effectiveness. BRAC facilitates multi-service missions, and support our transforming force structure, through the elimination of excess physical capacity and alignment of DOD infrastructure with defense strategy.

7.2. Although the Department already has a significant amount of data on file, it conducts specific data calls to obtain fresh, certified data for use during the BRAC analysis.

7.3. This approach ensures that the Department collects and uses the most currently available data and, in so doing, ensures all bases are treated equally throughout the comprehensive BRAC analysis.

7.4. There is no set number of data collection efforts in this process. The Department will issue as many data calls as need in order to adequately and fairly evaluate all military installations.

7.5. There is currently no list. There will be no official list until May of 2005. This data call is just the first of a series of events that will determine which specific closures and realignments will occur as required by law - the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990.

8. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION. Ref A continues to apply. In particular, the following sentences from para 8.2 of Ref. A. apply to not only community inquiries, but also dealings with the media: "PAOs may continue to release the same type and amount of information on their installations as they currently do, but may not release, in whole or in part, data calls/information requested under BRAC. It is important to note that local commanders are not in a position to evaluate the entire mission requirements and cross-service implications of their individual functions as they may affect DoD, and local commanders are not in a position to answer questions requiring them to speculate and/or discuss BRAC issues which are subject to internal DoD deliberation. While information normally provided to the public may continue to be provided, even if it is the subject of a BRAC data call, its relationship to BRAC is not releasable."

9. OASD/PA POC is Mr. Glenn Flood, cmcl 703-695-6294, DSN 225-6294, email glenn.flood@osd.mil.

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